



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 33 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

John B. Troost
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Alexia Teran
Harley D. Rubenstein
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal at 1:19 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Martha Arana, Commission Staff. The following Commissioners were present at the meeting: 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, and Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Harley D. Rubenstein, and Alexia Teran. President Kecia Weller, Commissioners Wan Chun Chang, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Wendy L. Welt, and Sheila D. Wright were not present.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2009 MINUTES

On motion of 2nd Vice President Troost, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of March 18, 2009, were approved with minor modifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Algeria provided public comment, and shared his concerns about a donut shop that gives their donuts names that are inappropriate and insensitive to him and perhaps to people with disabilities. Written correspondence was submitted.

Daniel Garcia provided public comment and reported on SB110 sponsored by The Arc of California and authored by Senator Liu. He also reported on IHSS program and fraud. Written correspondence was submitted.

Linda Block provided public comment, shared information about her preferred candidates, and encouraged individuals to vote at the Statewide Special Election on May 19, 2009.

(Commissioners Sheila Wright and Wan Chun Chang joined the meeting at 1:20 p.m.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of President Weller, 1st Vice President Neal reported that Commissioner Bernard Siegel passed away on Monday, April 13, 2009, at approximately 3:00 a.m., from breathing complications. Funeral Services are scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Eden Memorial Park (Eternal Light Chapel), 11500 Sepulveda Boulevard, Mission Hills, CA 91345. Commissioner Siegel was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (3rd District), in 2000. He most recently served as the 2008-2009 Treasurer, and was a great Commissioner and disability advocate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Bernard Siegel, 1st Vice President Neal requested Ms. Martha Arana, Commission Staff, to report the Trust Fund balance. Ms. Arana reported an estimated Trust Fund Balance of \$28,367. The report was received and filed.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Martha Arana, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Department of Human Resources encourages Commissioners to complete the AB1234 Ethics Training Course. Commissioners were asked to provide a copy of their certificate of completion. Commission Staff may be contacted for instructions, assistance with the Saba Learning Net System, or with difficulties or problems in launching the course online. Instructor-led courses are not currently available; classes are tentatively scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd week of July 2009 and at the end of October 2009.

- The County of Los Angeles and the Department of Public Works will host the Florence-Firestone Get Hip – Go Green Fest '09 on April 18, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, 7600 Graham Avenue, Los Angeles 90001. This event is being sponsored by County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District) and Gloria Molina (1st District) in partnership with Sempra Energy. Flyers for the event were made available to the Commission and meeting attendees.
- On February 17, 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved the 2009 March of Dimes campaign with the theme, “Reaching Out to Save Babies.” This year, Ms. Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors is one of the Campaign Co-Chairpersons with the Chief Executive Office, the Fire Chief and the Director of Department of Public Social Services. There are several activities associated with the annual walk-a-thon, including a raffle to win a *Toyota Venza*, the sale of Spring Beanie Babies, *Blue Jeans for Babies* days, and LA County Dodger Night. Last year, County employees raised more than \$368,000. This year, Ms. Hamai is looking forward to more participation at the March for Babies Walk on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Exposition Park. Individuals interested in participating or making a donation to the Executive Office Team, may contact Ms. Ester Bryant, Executive Office Coordinator, at (213) 974-1421 or by e-mail at ebryant@bos.lacounty.gov.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Discussion and Approval of the Commission’s 2008 Annual Report

In the absence of President Weller, 1st Vice President Neal reported that the 2008 LA County Commission on Disabilities’ Annual Report was completed. The Commission reviewed and discussed the report.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the Commission made slight corrections, approved and filed the 2008 LA County Commission on Disabilities Annual Report.

Discussion of Commission Bylaws

The Commission's Bylaws were discussed, and it was noted that if recommendations to amend the Bylaws are brought forward, a notice of intention to amend the Bylaws must be sent by certified mail to members of the Commission ten (10) days in advance of the date sent for consideration of such amendments.

1st Vice President Neal made a suggestion that the Bylaws be an item of discussion at the forthcoming Commission Retreat.

Nominating Committee

Selection and Approval of 2009-2010 Nominating Committee

Chair Neal reported on the process and timeline for the election of Officers for the 2009-2010 Term. She invited and encouraged Commissioners to serve on the Nominating Committee.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee -- Commissioner Alexia Teran, representing the First District, Commissioner Janet A. Neal, representing the 2nd District, John B. Troost, representing the Second District, and Commissioner Harley D. Rubenstein, representing the Fourth District. Commissioner John B. Troost was nominated to Chair the Nominating Committee. The Commission noted that the Committee did not have members representing the Third and Fifth Districts. This Ad Hoc Committee will hold a meeting before the next regular scheduled Commission meeting in May 2009.

Public Relations Committee

Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM

Approval of the design of the flyer to promote the "Disability Network Program" aired on KTYM 1460 AM

On motion of Commissioner Chang, seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the Commission made some slight modifications to the flyer, and approved the design of the flyer to promote the "Disability Network Program.

1st Vice President Neal reported that she had two guests at the "Disability Network" radio program. One of the guests was from the Department of Public Health, who promoted a Fruit and Veggie Fest on Sunday, May 17, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Superior Grocers, 8811 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90047. A flyer with information on the event was submitted. The other guest was Ms. Candice Hung, Outreach Coordinator, Housing Rights Center, who promoted the 10th Annual Housing Rights Summit, on Wednesday April 22, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities located at 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Space to this event is limited and registration is required. For registration or additional information, please call the Housing Rights Center at (800) 477-5977 or visit www.hrc-la.org. Written correspondence was submitted on this event.

Events Committee

Access Awards Luncheon

Approval to hold the 18th Annual Access Awards Luncheon on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens with an expense not to exceed \$9,000

On motion of 2nd Vice President Troost, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to hold the 18th Annual Access Awards Luncheon on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens with an expense not to exceed \$9,000.

Bill Tainter Scholarship Program

Approval to reduce the amount of the Bill Tainter Scholarship from \$2,000 to \$1,000 and to disburse scholarship installments to winners in October 2009 and December 2009.

1st Vice President Neal reported that due to the state of the economy and the Commission Trust Fund Account balance, the Committee decided to make a recommendation to the Commission take a conservative approach in planning the 2009 Bill Tainter Scholarship Program. The Committee concluded that a reduction in the amount of the Scholarship from \$2,000 to \$1,000 would be appropriate. Additionally, the Committee recommended that the Commission award the scholarship money to the students in two installments—the first installment in October 2009, and the second installment in December 2009.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Chang, the Commission approved to reduce the amount of the Bill Tainter Scholarship from \$2,000 to \$1,000 and to disburse scholarship installments to winners in October 2009 and December 2009. Said motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chang, Gureckas, Rubenstein, Teran, Neal and Troost

Noes: Commissioner Wright

Abstentions: None

Community Services Committee

1st Vice President Neal gave a brief report on the City of LA Commission on Disability meeting on April 1, 2009, where she was on the agenda as a speaker. She noted that she addressed issues of transportation, health services and housing. She submitted a copy of a tape from the Commission's radio program, the "Disability Network," which contained testimony from the disability community and their needs and/or concerns.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report

There was none.

MTA Report

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer, representing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO), shared a brochure titled, "Tether Straps for Mobility Devices," and reported the following:

- The Tether Strap Program for wheelchairs is currently being implemented. METRO is looking forward to have full implementation of this program by summer 2009. METRO operators will begin training for this program in early May 2009, and will continue receive yearly mandatory training on securing wheelchair with the tether strap.

Mr. Hazen added that METRO is currently also working on installing Between-Car-Barriers (BCB) on all light rail stations, as a result of a fatality of an individual with vision impairment who mistook the area between the cars of the train for an entrance into the train.

The California Public Utilities Commission approved METRO to install Between-Car-Barriers to ensure the safety of the visually impaired patrons. The barrier will basically be a ballard or delineator. The delineators will be bright yellow in color, approximately 27 inches above the ground, on a base of approximately three inches in circumference. Between-Car-Barriers are slated to be installed in all light rail station commencing in May 2009 with a completion date of July 2009.

To disseminate information on the Between-Car-Barrier, METRO will be working with different stakeholders including the California Council of the Blind and its chapters and the Braille Institute. METRO will also develop training sessions and educational outreach seminars.

Mr. Daniel Garcia provided public comment and reported METRO does not have a committee that represents the disability community and its needs.

REPORT BY GORDON ANTHONY, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

There was none.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice President Neal announced the following events:

4th Annual South LA Earth Fest

Saturday, April 18, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Leimert Park Village

(Located at the intersection of S. Crenshaw Blvd. and W. Vernon Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90008)

Ms. Nicole Vick, Health Educator (323) 235-6711

Yesenia Eras, P.H.N. (323) 235-6722

STD Awareness Event

Saturday, April 18, 2009

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited High School

1827 E. 103rd Street

Los Angeles, CA 90002

Susan Walker, M.P.H (213) 744-3070

Jackie Provost, M.P.H. (213) 386-5614 Ext. 4556

Commissioner Teran announced Lummis Day 2009, the Fourth Annual Festival of the Northeast Los Angeles, on Sunday, June 7, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. to 7p.m., at Sycamore Grove Park.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., in memory of Commissioner Bernard Siegel.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
John B. Troost, 2nd Vice President
Wan Chun Chang
Michael Gureckas
Harley Rubenstein
Alexia Teran
Sheila Wright

Guests

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer
METRO
Jonathan Gleicher, LifeSigns, Inc.
Clarence "Ali" Dionisio, Total Recall
Daniel Garcia, Eastern Los Angeles
Regional Center
Jesse Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles
Regional Center
Victor Alegria
Linda Block
Maria N. Tan
Rose Curry, Community Liaison/Assistant
Ombudsman, LA Co Department of the
Ombudsman

Excused Absence

Kecia Weller, President
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Maria Mustelier-Parrish

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Rangel, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Access Services, Inc.

Luis Pacheco